

CHAPTER VII

INTERNAL AFFAIRS, 1140-1154. THE DEATH OF THE KING

AT the close of 1140, the new kingdom stood consolidated, legalised at the hands of its suzerain, a Pope whom all Europe had accepted, its frontiers defined, and a constitution promulgated for it on the Ariano day. A period of external expansion followed; Roger took his place among the first princes of Europe, and at once revived the old duel with Constantinople, and the campaign against the Mohammedans of Africa. But his resources were not exclusively devoted to the latter. Many outstanding questions still survived the compact of Mignano, and fed the flame of a guerilla war which filled the rest of the reign. Scarcely one year free from inarches of armies or apprehension of great dangers was allowed to the kingdom in this period. The condition of things was complicated; the factors in it were many and intertangled, namely, the Norman kingdom, the Papacy, the Roman commune, the empires of East and West, France, the Crusades,